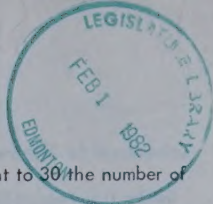
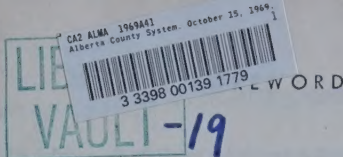


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On January 1, 1969, the new county of Parkland brought to 30 the number of municipal districts which have combined with their school divisions to adopt the county form of local government in the rural areas of this Province.

The first two rural counties were established in Alberta on January 1, 1951. Two of the present thirty therefore have had eighteen years' experience with the county system. A third is entering its eighteenth year. While the others have been organized for shorter periods of time it is perhaps significant that eight of the thirty have been established in the past eight years, a recent average of a county a year.

Total rural area under county administration in Alberta now exceeds 1200 townships, the population of which is approximately 214,000. By way of comparison, the remaining 18 municipal districts contain 567 townships and support a rural population of 94,000.

This is the fourth edition of a booklet designed to provide information about the background and operation of the county system as we have it in Alberta. Questions are continuing to be asked about counties by a large number of interested people. We attempt to answer them in the following pages.

In our foreword to the 1959 edition of this booklet, we said "The enthusiasm of officials charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of their respective counties is shared by the Provincial Government." During the ten years since those words were written the enthusiasm of local and provincial people alike has remained undiminished.

The Alberta County System has been described as a step towards more efficient and economical local government. We hope the information contained in this booklet will help demonstrate the meaning of the statement.

F.C. Colborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs

AFTER EIGHTEEN YEARS

There's a fairly well-defined relationship between the depression of the thirties and the development of the county system in rural Alberta. Prior to 1936 most rural school districts in the Province were about four miles square and meeting the costs of running a school in such a small area often became quite impossible. Consequently officials of the Provincial Government suggested as a remedy the amalgamation of from fifty to sixty or more small rural school districts into a single large school division. They pointed out this would provide the wider tax base required and at the same time would allow greater economy and efficiency of administration. The plan had already proven itself in the Berry Creek area and in the Turner Valley oil field.

With the passage of legislation in 1936 the program of establishing large school divisions was undertaken in earnest. Eleven were operating at the end of the first year and by 1941, with early opposition changing to support as the advantages of the new system became apparent, approximately 3,500 small school districts had been welded into 50 large divisions. Here it may be noted that, by agreement, most town and village school districts had joined their adjacent or surrounding school divisions, though municipally the towns and villages themselves continued to remain apart.

LARGE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

In the meantime, the same arguments favoring the enlargement of both rural and urban school districts applied to the small rural municipal districts. Because of hard times twenty-seven of these had been disorganized between 1928 and 1940 and their administration taken over by the Department of Municipal Affairs. Officials believed that this retreat from local autonomy could be halted if the resources of several small units were combined to form large municipal districts. Unnecessary duplication in local administration would be eliminated thereby and economies affected. Mill rates would be more stable and tax burdens more over would be equalized between strong and weaker districts.

With these objectives in view, the program of amalgamating two or more municipal units got underway in 1942 and by 1944 the number of municipal districts in Alberta had been reduced from 143 to 60.

Complete results of the two policies are difficult to assess, but it seems fair to say that the arguments set forth in favor of each have been completely vindicated. With

every new formation, administrative duplication was removed and more efficient procedures followed including greater economy through centralized purchasing. A higher standard of both school and municipal services was possible in the enlarged units, with greater educational opportunities for all rural areas and with better roads built and maintained for heavier traffic. Finally, by combining wealthier districts with those not so fortunate, tax burdens were equalized or spread more evenly over the enlarged areas.

But progressive as these changes were, the development of local government in Alberta was still far from complete. Since its inauguration on September 1, 1905, the Province of Alberta has been notable for the progressive manner in which it sought to improve local conditions. In this case it might be said that the new systems of large school and municipal districts made two further steps necessary and these followed in rapid succession. One was the passage of The County Act by which the two types of administrative units could be combined to form an omnibus or all-purpose form of local government unit, and the other was by simple addition and/or subtraction the establishing of "co-terminous" or common boundaries wherever possible for school divisions and enlarged municipal districts which did not choose to unite as counties.

The County Act was passed on April 5, 1950, and came into force on July 1 of that same year. The work of the co-terminous Boundary Commission, formidable in scope and controversial in nature, was accomplished between the appointment of the Commission on March 2, 1953, and the end of 1954, when its final report was signed.

THE COUNTY ACT

The establishment of counties under The County Act of 1950 was called "the final logical step in the evolution of local government in Alberta", but the proposal and Bill No. 50 itself met with violent criticism. It was opposed as "an attempt by the Department of Municipal Affairs to take over the running of school districts," as a plan "to centralize and regiment the entire Province in Counties" or more tersely as "dictatorial centralization".

Opposition to the system was unaccountably strong in the teaching profession and among school trustees (who saw in it "the deterioration of school affairs in favor of roads, sidewalks and other public services"). Individuals were certain that counties would mean increased taxes, the loss of personal contact with their local councils, decreasing im-

portance of elected officials, reduced services and even their own disfranchisement.

To help counteract such criticism, it was stipulated that "the number of counties to be formed under this Act shall not exceed four". Another compromise with those who demanded that a plebiscite be taken in a district as the first (and probably the last) step in converting it to a county, was the provision that four years after conversion, the ratepayers must be allowed to decide whether they wished to continue under county government or would prefer to revert to the previous form.

It need hardly be stressed that the experience of people living under the authority of county government over the past eighteen years disproves every charge made against the county system. First evidence to this effect was found in the results of the four plebiscites held at the end of the four year trial period mandatory prior to 1958. In the first five counties to be incorporated, the compulsory vote favored the retention of the new system by very substantial majorities, and because of this the Act was amended in 1958 to make such a vote optional. Of the 26 counties since formed and affected by this change, only one, the County of Sturgeon, reverted by plebiscite to its former status of municipal district.

The complete record of votes held in Alberta counties appears elsewhere in this booklet.

REASONS BEHIND THE ACT

Several reasons leading to the passing of The County Act have already been mentioned, but one of the most important was the serious conflict of interest which sometimes persisted between municipal councils and school boards. In localities still having the two divided authorities the problem is never far away even now and where this is true the adoption of the county system with its authority and interest united, continues to be the most effective if not the only solution.

Prior to 1931 local councils and school boards both levied taxes and collected them independently. This resulted in many grave problems, so in 1931 municipal councils were given authority to levy and collect funds for all local purposes with school boards obtaining their share by means of requisitions made upon the taxing authority.

Here was an improvement, but with educational costs rising sharply and requisitions also rising, municipal councils openly accused school boards of extravagance, irresponsibility and building up reserves even at times when the taxing authorities were hard-pressed

for cash. Many considered it unfair that school boards should have unlimited requisitioning power without responsibility for mill rates, or conversely, that municipal councils which had to collect the money had no control over how it was spent.

This condition was partly corrected in 1948 when it was provided that any requisition exceeding that of the previous year by twenty per cent could be referred to a Commissioner (changed later to the Public Utilities Board) for a ruling. A further change was made in 1952 when the twenty per cent limit was removed.

Now, under provisions of The School Act, a municipal council may within 60 days of receipt of a requisition, apply to the Local Authorities Board for an examination of the current estimates of a requisitioning school authority, if it deems any item in the school estimates to be excessive.

After a public hearing of the matter, the requisition may be confirmed or amended by that Board. That this is designed to help where the requisitioning school authority is different from the municipal taxing authority should not pass unnoticed. The provision applies only where ^a school division and ^a municipal district are still separate entities. Where the county system has been adopted, there is no need for it.

CO-TERMINOUS BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Returning again to 1953 and the work of the Co-terminous Boundary Commission it isn't surprising that widespread confusion resulted from the overlapping boundaries of school divisions and the large municipal districts. This confusion was particularly confounded where a school division might requisition its funds from several of the latter. The equitable distribution of provincial grants also posed a grave problem which was aggravated by varying standards of services and the differences in mill rates.

The five-member Commission held its first meetings early in 1953 in the southern part of the Province and, working northward, completed its work by the end of 1954. Using seven criteria (physical features; nature of production; ability to pay; size in relation to administration; inclusion of non-divisional schools; existing pattern of school centralization; railroads, highways and market centres) they negotiated with municipal councils, school boards, other interested groups and individuals until boundaries common to both types of administrative units were determined wherever possible to the general satisfaction of all concerned.

The Counties of Warner No. 5, Stettler No. 6 and Thorhild No. 7 were established while the Commission was engaged in its task. This might suggest that the determination of co-terminous boundaries encouraged county formation. On the other hand, no new counties were organized during the next two years which might strengthen the view that, with the confusion of over-lapping boundaries removed, the need to combine the two units was diminished. There is indeed strong evidence to support this latter view, but the fact remains that all of the twenty-three counties incorporated since January 1, 1958, did enjoy for varying periods the benefits resulting from the work of the Co-terminous Boundary Commission.

SINGLE GOVERNMENT

The County Act originally provided for the amalgamation of municipal, school and hospital districts under a single authority. Unfortunately it has not been found feasible so far to "tuck hospital districts under the county quilt" although a compromise solution has been adopted. This provides the county with membership on the local hospital board ^{taking} ~~second~~ *into consideration the extent of the hospital district within the county,* ~~ing to the relationship existing between the county and the hospital district.~~

The hospital district is established by Order of the Minister of Health and divided into wards, each entitled to a board member. The size of the hospital and its complexity and economy of operation are the major factors in determining the number of board members required. Distribution of members to effect equitable representation throughout the district is primarily based upon population. The district population is divided by the number of board members desired to arrive at the approximate number of people that would be entitled to a representative and wards determined accordingly. In the event of a county being entitled to more than 1 member which usually happens, the county council is asked to establish the boundaries between the county wards.

The municipal council representing the majority of population in a ward decides whether the next ward representative shall be elected or appointed. This is usually the county council but is not necessarily so, especially in auxiliary hospital and nursing home districts where a large town in a ward may have a larger population than the portion of a county included in the ward. It should be noted that it is a council responsibility to determine whether hospital board members are to be elected or appointed -- not a hospital board prerogative -- also that appointees may be residents in the ward or members of county council in the case of

county representation. If members are to be decided by election, council must make the decision not later than two months before a member's term expires to allow sufficient time for election procedure under The Municipal Election Act.

With this exception the chief characteristic of the Alberta county system is that it combines all local authorities into a single executive body responsible for all local purposes. Early critics feared that this meant the loss of autonomy in school or municipal matters according to their point of view, but time has proven otherwise. Lessening of local authority is not involved, but rather the bringing together into a single county council those separate bodies which at times may be working at cross purposes.

As has already been said, conflict of interest and lack of responsibility is eliminated with the adoption of the county form of local government. The school divisional board and the municipal district council are replaced by a single county council, members of which form themselves into committees to administer the affairs of the county as a whole. The

exercises the same authority as the old school Board and
school committee is composed of three or more members of the county council together with
representatives of ^{the} towns and villages ~~which~~ ^{form} a part of the county for school purposes, ~~and~~
~~exercises the authority of the old school board.~~ The municipal committee, also composed of
three or more members of the council, exercises the authority of a municipal council. Mem-
bers meet as separate committees but as the county council, they bear full responsibility for
the mill rate and exercise complete authority over expenditures.

It should be obvious therefore that failure to achieve a co-ordinated program
pertaining to schools, roads, or other local affairs is impossible under the Alberta county sys-
tem. Overall interests are placed ahead of special interests. Members of the council share
the total responsibility, answering to the people of the county for the standard of all local
services and for the methods by which they are financed. They should not consider themselves
either roadbuilders or educationists, but as administrators charged with formulating policies
which will carry out the wishes of their ratepayers *in both respects.*

Responsibility and authority should never be divided. The Alberta county system
combines them most effectively.

RURAL-URBAN (Metropolplex)

An amendment in 1967 provided that an Improvement District and its related
towns, villages and school division(s) may merge their administrations into one 'Metropoli-
tan' or 'Metropolplex' county.

In this context, metroplex is intended to mean a cluster of contrasting (i.e.
rural-urban) heterogeneous communities sharing geographic, economic and social interests
to the extent that an average resident may live in one community, shop in another, go to
work in one set apart from these, play in a different one again, go to worship in still
another and so have daily contact with friends in all of them.

And speaking of assessments, tax revenue and municipal expenditures in this
setting, the ^{metroplex} county may well be characterized by considerable industrial assessment and
revenue in the rural areas with inordinate municipal expenditure required in the urban areas.

No such county has yet been formed in the province.

BUDGETING — BUDGETING

Where local authority is divided, the school board prepares its budget for the
current year and requisitions the municipal council for supplementary amounts required over

and above that obtained from the Government through the School Foundation Program. Regardless of the effect on expenditures in other fields this requisition must be paid. Needless to say the total ^{of school requisitions} often necessitates sharp curtailment of essential public work or, alternatively, an increase in the mill rate.

In counties each committee submits its yearly estimates to the county council and these are scrutinized for their effect on the total budget. Estimates of the various committees may be reduced, increased or returned for further consideration and when the final estimates are approved, the full council adopts the budget. Even then, there is a flexibility under special circumstances which is virtually impossible under any other system.

Also important is the fact that ratepayers can see at a glance how much their schools and municipal services are costing them. And because all grants or revenues shared by the Province are paid to the county, the impact of such payments is also clarified.

SUMMING UP

Further repetition of advantages credited to the Alberta county system should not be necessary for it has now been tested by eighteen years of successful operation in widely-scattered sections of the Province. Economy of administration is a factor, but the main emphasis here should be placed on the greater value obtained for each tax dollar. That is to say, counties may not spend less, but they get more for their money.

In counties, with one local government for all local purposes, the council is responsible for every policy. Ratepayers know how much each of their services is costing them. From an internal standpoint, each committee knows what the others are doing and (of equal importance) how much is being spent. Again, borrowing by one committee isn't necessary when there are funds in reserve — and finally, the levying and collecting of taxes are decided by the same people who authorize their spending.

In a word, where it has been tried over the past eighteen years, the Alberta county system has removed most if not all of the problems common to any other system.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Dr. J.R. Stan Hambly wrote a thesis ^{for} from The Ontario College of Education, University of Toronto, entitled "County School Administration in Alberta". He summarizes his conclusions as follows:

"The study was restricted to an investigation of school administration in the

first four counties established in Alberta. The four counties were matched roughly with four school divisions. After the development of an historical outline of education in Alberta, five problems were studied: the provision of accommodation and services for school children, the position and responsibilities of the county superintendent of schools, the co-ordination of school and municipal authorities, the availability and use of financial resources for education, and administrative practices within the framework of the county as a large unit of school administration.

"The conclusions reached indicate, in general, that county councils have provided school accommodation and school services in much the same manner as have school division authorities. County superintendents are highly regarded by county councillors and in the formative years of county administration are given broad responsibilities in educational affairs. The integration of municipal and school authorities in county council has provided admirably for cooperative, effective, and efficient administration of all business within the county. County councils have been cooperative and generous in the financing of education even though they possess legal authority to restrict expenditures and to exercise control over the school committees which, in large part, are responsible for the administration of education.

Other evidence supporting the success of Alberta's counties comes from men who from their very beginnings have been helping in county administration. Here, then, are their carefully considered views resulting from first hand experience both in municipal districts and counties:

"With the coming of the county we find much more activity in road building and more interests in municipal affairs by the people, although this interest is not always favorable.

"There had been no decrease in interest in schools. Councillors regard both schools and roads as their responsibility and probably show more courage in attacking problems than members of the school division ever did Because of their independence in road planning, they also show more initiative in their school administration.

"I can state from experience that the county offers a better means of educating people in local government. Under the older system, too much time was wasted in fault-finding between the two bodies of government. Under the county system, there is no way of

dodging responsibility. The councillor is definitely responsible for all local government."

"School representatives have an influence in the whole field of local government. They even assist in social welfare, health and taxation. They definitely have a strong voice in public works recommendations."

"By and large, the school committee administers The School Act and the Department of Education regulations almost identically with the behavior of a school board in a divisional set-up. This being the case, there is of course very little difference in the type of service provided by the counties and that provided by a school division.

"In matters of roadbuilding, gravelling, snow plowing, provision of school and school vaning facilities, a council which is solely responsible for all these services is more sensitive to public opinion and provides a better service than in the case of the divided responsibility.

"School services have benefitted under the county form of local government."

"The councillors appear to be quite happy with the general success we've had. Having local government services in one office helps the locally-elected official to keep closer contact with all problems. It also makes him more accessible to the ratepayers.

"The County system is definitely an improvement over the old system. It is keeping us up to date."

"In the actual operation of the county itself, I'm certain every one of our councillors will bear me out in the statement that its advantages far outweigh any disadvantages so much that it is hard to think of anything that can be called a disadvantage. Either we've been favored with an exceptionally good class of councillors, or the smooth operation of the county is the automatic result of the proper co-ordination of services, but we have very few problems actually.

"The bogey of the school side suffering under the county system is most certainly dispelled here, in fact all evidence points the opposite. The schools have never been kept in better condition, there has never been better service, and we have built an average of a new school a year.

"Municipally, I find that the joint services make it a lot easier to utilize otherwise seasonal crews; the better ones can be used for many jobs during the winter.

"I think the very fact that all members of the council sit and discuss all problems does a lot to stabilize the thinking of each councillor, and tends to bring about a tolerance

cannot be brought about in any other way."

Back in 1956, Del McQueen, then Secretary-Treasurer of the County of Vulcan, wrote an article entitled "Counties Are Here To Stay". We have no reason to believe otherwise today.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: What is an ideal size for a county?

A: This depends upon the type of activity or industry, density of population, topography, etc. The average size is now about 40 townships; the average population about 7,100. From a school point of view, the number of classrooms that can be conveniently handled by one superintendent is another criterion. Average number of classrooms per county is now 109.

Q: What about boundaries if a county were formed?

A: The existing boundaries of the municipal district and the school division would prevail.

Q: Are counties in a preferred position with respect to grants?

A: No difference whatever.

Q: Will our taxes be lower if we convert to a county?

A: It is impossible to predict lower taxes. This depends on the policies of the council as dictated by the demands of the people for services. However, it can be definitely stated that better value for the tax dollar will be possible under the county system. Administration costs should be lower, as greater efficiency can be developed in office procedures. It is also possible that savings may result from reduced office staff, smaller fees for supervision and expenses.

Q: What is the ideal number of councillors?

A: Seven for a county of average size seems to be a good number. Councillors should learn to delegate or farm out to employees the investigations and complaints re roads, culverts, etc., leaving the council to establish policy and set the program to be carried out.

Q: Would councillors be elected as school men or municipal men?

A: Neither. They would be elected as county councillors, responsible for both school and municipal matters.

What about representation from towns and villages in the county for school purposes?

A: Starting in 1969, all of the towns and villages now have representation on the school committee up to the number of members on the county council, provided, however, that if the number of towns and villages included within the county for school purposes exceeds the total number of electoral divisions, a system of rotation for towns and villages included in the county for school purposes is necessary.

At the present time and in the foreseeable future there are only two counties, Camrose and Flagstaff, where such a rotation is necessary. In Camrose there are eight towns and villages and in Flagstaff there are ten towns and villages with only seven electoral divisions in each county.

Full membership to towns and villages on a school committee can also occasionally result in a small village with a population, say of 170, having equal representation with a town of 3,000.

Equal representation from towns and villages and from the county council is found in the counties of Lamont (5 and 5), ~~Camrose (7 and 7)~~ and Lacombe ^{and of course, as is being done by Flagstaff and Camrose.} (7 and 7). In these counties, no harm seems to have arisen by having equal representation. Of course an even vote on a resolution before any such committee means it defeat. In theory, therefore, it could be argued that if continual controversy developed between the two categories of members on a equal representation school committee, there might then be a succession of tie votes that would have the school committee accomplishing little or no business. However, experience is showing that the equal representation school committees are working satisfactorily for all concerned.

Q: What rights have town or village representatives on the county school committee?

A: The same rights, privileges and powers as other members of the school committee. They are also entitled to the same remuneration and expenses. In addition, they exercise the rights, privileges and powers of a member of the county council when the business before the council is the annual estimates of the school committee.

Do towns and villages in the county lose the right to elect their own councils?

A: Conversion to the county system brings no change whatever in the administration of a town or village.

Q: Would the boundaries of existing electoral divisions be changed?

A: Not necessarily. The County Act provides that "The Minister may by order change the boundaries of the county or the number of areas of the electoral divisions" but the same authority exists under The Municipal Government Act.

Q: How do hospitals fit into the county system?

A: The term "hospitals" as used in this question is interpreted to mean the whole gamut of hospital services including those rendered by general hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, auxiliary hospitals and contract nursing homes, the latter not being hospitals but included under the hospitalization program. For representation on hospital boards, see "Single Government" elsewhere in this booklet.

Hospital tax requisitions to cover excess or unapproved costs or additional working capital must be approved by the Deputy Minister of Hospital Services. Individual hospital requisitions are not approved in anticipation of an operating deficit. Requisitions mentioned are in addition to the 4 mill tax on an equalized assessment. An approved requisition must be paid by the included municipalities.

The province is now responsible for construction and location of hospitals as required in the province and meeting their operating costs to a maximum ^(including debt service payments) established for individual hospitals. Ownership resides with the local hospital district board which has autonomy within the terms of The Alberta Hospitals Act and Regulations thereunder. Hospitals cannot operate at a profit.

A different situation exists with respect to nursing homes. The nursing home districts are responsible for construction of required nursing home facilities. Many have been built by private enterprise and, of course, the owners meet their operating and capital obligations and retain any excess of income over expenses. Since 1969, private enterprise has been excluded from further expansion in this field leaving it to municipalities to own and operate new nursing homes using The Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation to loan

capital funds required on the basis of repayment by the nursing home district board from patient revenue. Any operating profit or loss resides with the owners, private or municipal.

The Alberta Hospitals Act makes provision for municipalities to absorb their fair share of excess costs of a voluntary hospital (one not municipally or provincially owned) by formation of a hospital board of management having municipal representation thereon and thereby becoming responsible for a portion of excess costs. An alternative method is by agreement with the hospital to pay the county share of excess costs determined by the number of patient days from the county in relation to the total patient days of the hospital for the year.

Q: Has the county council the right to curtail the budget of the school committee?

A: Yes. The municipal and school committees draw up their respective budgets and submit them to the county council for approval. The council can approve, reduce or increase the estimates of either committee or may return them for revision by the committee concerned. Final determination of the budget is the prerogative of the county council.

Q: What are the duties and powers of committees?

A: The municipal and the school committee have and shall exercise on behalf of the county council all the duties and powers of a council or a board under The Municipal Government/Act or The School Act except the powers

- (a) to borrow money
- (b) to pass a by-law
- (c) to do such other things as may by by-law be reserved to the county council, and
- (d) to do such other things as may be specified by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Q: When may application be made for conversion to a county?

A: At any time, but applications made prior to October 10 will allow time to arrange elections of the county council which will assume office at the beginning of the year. If not, an administrator from the Department of Municipal Affairs conducts the affairs of the district until a county council is elected.

Q: Who may make application?

A: The Lieutenant Governor in Council may proceed to form a county after receiving a resolution for such action from the council of a municipality or from the board of a school division that comprises the major part of the area.

Q: Can it be proven that the single government of the county is better than the dual government of co-terminous municipal districts and school divisions?

A: Probably not to everyone's satisfaction, but it will bear repeating that there are a number of ways in which greater efficiency may be noted and assessed:

- (a) The single government of a co-terminous area allows a single staff to ensure that there is no over-lapping or duplication of services, and certainly no doubling up of elective officials.
- (b) The county form permits the borrowing of funds either on a short or long term basis by a single authority. Central control of funds, and direct access to the Municipal Financing Corporation when borrowing is necessary, places money at the disposal of all committees and borrowing is done by the county as a whole. Need for borrowing also may be reduced, as when school board may have to borrow while waiting for requisition payments.....at a time when municipal surpluses may be growing.
- (c) Under dual government, school requisitions must be paid regardless of their impact on municipal programs. County government should result in a better balance of expenditures within the county.
- (d) A single government can undertake overall planning more effectively. School authorities must plan van routes, and municipal authorities must plan highway development. When these two planning functions are combined greater efficiency in favor of the taxpayer should follow.

RECORD OF COUNTIES IN ALBERTA

Date of Incorporation Effective January 1	County	Area in Twp.s.	Population 1969	No. of Councillors	Date of Vote	For Retention	Against	Percentage
1951	County of Grande Prairie No. 1	58.6	8,697	11	Jan. 15, 1955	1,039	462	69.2
	County of Vulcan No. 2	60.9	4,330	11	Jan. 15, 1955	739	432	62.2
1952	County of Ponoka No. 3	33.4	8,392	7	Jan. 14, 1956	391	210	65.0
1953	County of Newell No. 4	65.3	5,898	9	Feb. 2, 1957	239	48	83.3
1954	County of Warner No. 5	46.8	4,382	9	Jan. 4, 1958	376	97	79.1
1955	County of Stettler No. 6	43.6	5,640	9				
	County of Thorhild No. 7	22.3	4,324	7	Mar. 21, 1959	812	141	86.0
1958	County of Forty Mile No. 8	80.3	4,104	9				
	County of Beaver No. 9	37.0	6,009	7				
	County of Wetaskiwin No. 10	35.1	8,435	7				
1959	County of Barrhead No. 11	26.1	5,467	7				
	County of Athabasca No. 12	48.1	6,147	9				
1961	County of Smoky Lake No. 13	28.1	4,028	7				
	County of Lacombe No. 14	29.6	8,367	7				
	County of Sturgeon No. 15							
	County of Wheatland No. 16	51.6	5,062	7				
	County of Mountain View No. 17	40.7	8,656	7				
	County of Paintearth No. 18	35.1	3,227	7				
	County of St. Paul No. 19	38.3	6,710	7				
	County of Strathcona No. 20	15.8	16,185	5				
					Reverted to M.D. in 1965.			

Date of Incorporation Effective January 1	County	Area in Twp.	Population 1969	No. of Councilors	Date of Vote	For Retention	Against	Percentage
1963	County of Two Hills No. 21	28.7	5,528	7				
	County of Camrose No. 22	37.1	8,285	7				
	County of Red Deer No. 23	42.7	12,943	7				
1964	County of Vermilion River No. 24	54.42	7,910	7				
	County of Leduc No. 25	37.39	10,294	7				
	County of Lethbridge No. 26	31.53	9,506	7				
1965	County of Minburn No. 27	40.67	5,591	7				
	County of Lac Ste. Anne No. 28	31.11	6,687	7				
1968	County of Flagstaff No. 29	43.2	5,977	7				
	County of Lamont No. 30	23.0	5,872	5				
1969	County of Parkland No. 31	38.76	10,964	7				